



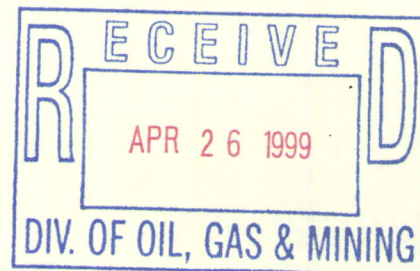
MONTGOMERY
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S/015/077

April 22, 1999

Tony Gallegos
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
1594 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801



Dear Mr. Gallegos:

Enclosed please find the report entitled "Cultural Resource Inventory of the Blue Castle Mine Site (320 acres), Emery County, Utah." This inventory resulted in no cultural or paleontological resources. Based on the findings, a determination of "no effect" is recommended for this project pursuant to Section 106, CFR 800.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Montgomery
Principal Investigator

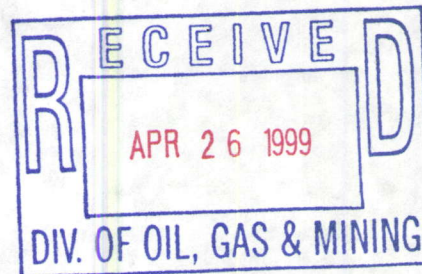
cc: Dan W. Guy, Blackhawk Engineering, Inc.
Blaine Miller, BLM Archaeologist, Price River R.A.
Val Payne, Emery County Public Lands

5/6/15/077

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF THE
BLUE CASTLE MINE SITE (320 ACRES),
EMERY COUNTY, UTAH

by

Sharyl A. Kinnear-Ferris
and
Keith R. Montgomery



Prepared For:

Bureau of Land Management
Price River Resource Area Office
Moab District

Prepared Under Contract With:

Blackhawk Engineering, Inc.
Route 1 Box 146-H5
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Prepared By:

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April 22, 1999

United States Department of Interior (FLPMA)
Permit No. 99-UT-60122

State of Utah Antiquities Project (Survey)
Permit No. U-99-MQ-0154b

INTRODUCTION

On April 19 and 20, 1999, a cultural resource inventory was conducted by Montgomery Archaeological Consultants (MOAC) for the proposed Blue Castle Mine site (320 acres) in Emery County, Utah. The archaeological survey was implemented at the request of Dan W. Guy, President of Blackhawk Engineering, Inc., Helper, Utah. The inventory area occurs on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Price River Resource Area (Moab District).

The objective of the inventory was to locate, document, and evaluate any cultural resources within the project area. Also, the inventory was implemented to attain compliance with a number of federal and state mandates, including the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Archaeological and Historic Conservation Act of 1972, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, and the Utah State Antiquities Act of 1973 (amended 1990).

The fieldwork was performed by Keith R. Montgomery, Sharyl Kinnear-Ferris, and Greg Nunn, under the auspices of U.S.D.I. (FLPMA) Permit No. 99-UT-60122 and State of Utah Antiquities Permit (Survey) No. U-99-MQ-0154b issued to Montgomery Archaeological Consultants, Moab, Utah. A file search for previous surveys and documented archaeological sites was performed by Keith R. Montgomery at the BLM Price River Resource Area Office (April 15, 1999). This consultation indicated that an inventory was completed by the University of Utah Archaeological Center for the Kaiser Steel South Lease Mine property (Rauch 1981). A number of prehistoric and historic sites were documented during this project including a test excavation at a rockshelter with Fremont and Numic components (42Em1343). In February 1999, Montgomery Archaeological Consultants inventoried two transportation routes and a power line for the proposed Lila Canyon Mine. The inventory resulted in the documentation of a prehistoric rockshelter (42Em2517) located in T. 16 S, R. 14 E, S. 15 (SW 1/4, NE 1/4, SW 1/4). Also documented were four isolated finds, including a purple glass body container fragment, clear glass base of a beverage container manufactured by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company (1920-1964), a white semi-translucent chert secondary flake and a red opaque chert tertiary flake, and a smashed hole-in-cap tin can. No previously-documented cultural resources are situated within the immediate project area.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

Blue Castle Mine Site

The proposed Blue Castle Mine site is located about 9 miles northeast of Woodside, Utah. It is accessed by a graded road off of U.S. Highway 6 & 191. The legal description is Township 16 South, Range 14 East, Section 29 (Figure 1). A total of 320 acres was surveyed for this proposed mine site. This inventory area occurs along the southeastern slopes and top of a ridge bounded by Grassy Wash and Coleman Wash. The elevation of the survey area ranges from 5200 to 5729 feet. Vegetation cover varies with elevation and includes: pinyon, juniper, Mormon tea, single-leaf ash, Indian ricegrass, yucca spp., penstemon, saltbush, hedgehog cactus, prickly pear cactus, and orange globemallow. Modern impacts to the landscape include livestock grazing and a two-track road.

In general, the project area lies within the Book Cliffs-Roan Plateau Physiographic Subdivision of the Colorado Plateau (Stokes 1986). The Book Cliffs form an almost continuous cliff face along the Tavaputs Plateau, broken by the canyon cut through the plateau by the Price River on its way to join the Green River. The geology of the project area is composed of Cretaceous period deposits which date from an estimated 144 to 78 million years ago (Ibid 1986:131). The lowlands west of the Book Cliffs consists of the Blue Gate shale member of the Mancos Shale group which are mainly marine sediments. The Cretaceous age rocks yield a notable record of both continental and marine vertebrates with fish remains represented chiefly by scales and teeth. The nearest permanent water source in the area is the Price River, situated approximately 5 miles to the west. Several intermittent drainages cross the area including Grassy Wash and Coleman Wash.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

An intensive or 100% survey coverage was conducted by the archaeologists by walking a series of parallel transects spaced no more than 10 meters (30 feet) apart. Areas such as large boulders were closely inspected for buried cultural remains. Ground visibility was considered to be good. A total of 320 acres, administered by the BLM, Price River Resource Area, was inspected at the Blue Castle mine site.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The inventory of the proposed Blue Castle Mine Site resulted in no cultural or paleontological resources. Based on the findings, a determination of "no effect" to Section 106, CFR 800 is recommended for these project areas.

REFERENCES CITED

Montgomery, Keith R.

- 1999 Cultural Resource Inventory of Transportation Corridors and Power Line Route for the Lila Canyon Mine Project, Emery County, Utah. Montgomery Archaeological Consultants, Moab, Utah. On file at the BLM Price River Resource Area, Report No. U-98-MQ-0739b.

Rauch, Rebecca

- 1981 A Cultural Resource Inventory of the Kaiser Steel Corporation South Lease Mine Property and a Test Excavation (42Em1343) in Emery County, East Central Utah. University of Utah Archeological Center, Salt Lake City.

Stokes, William Lee

- 1986 Geology of Utah. Utah Museum of Natural History, University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

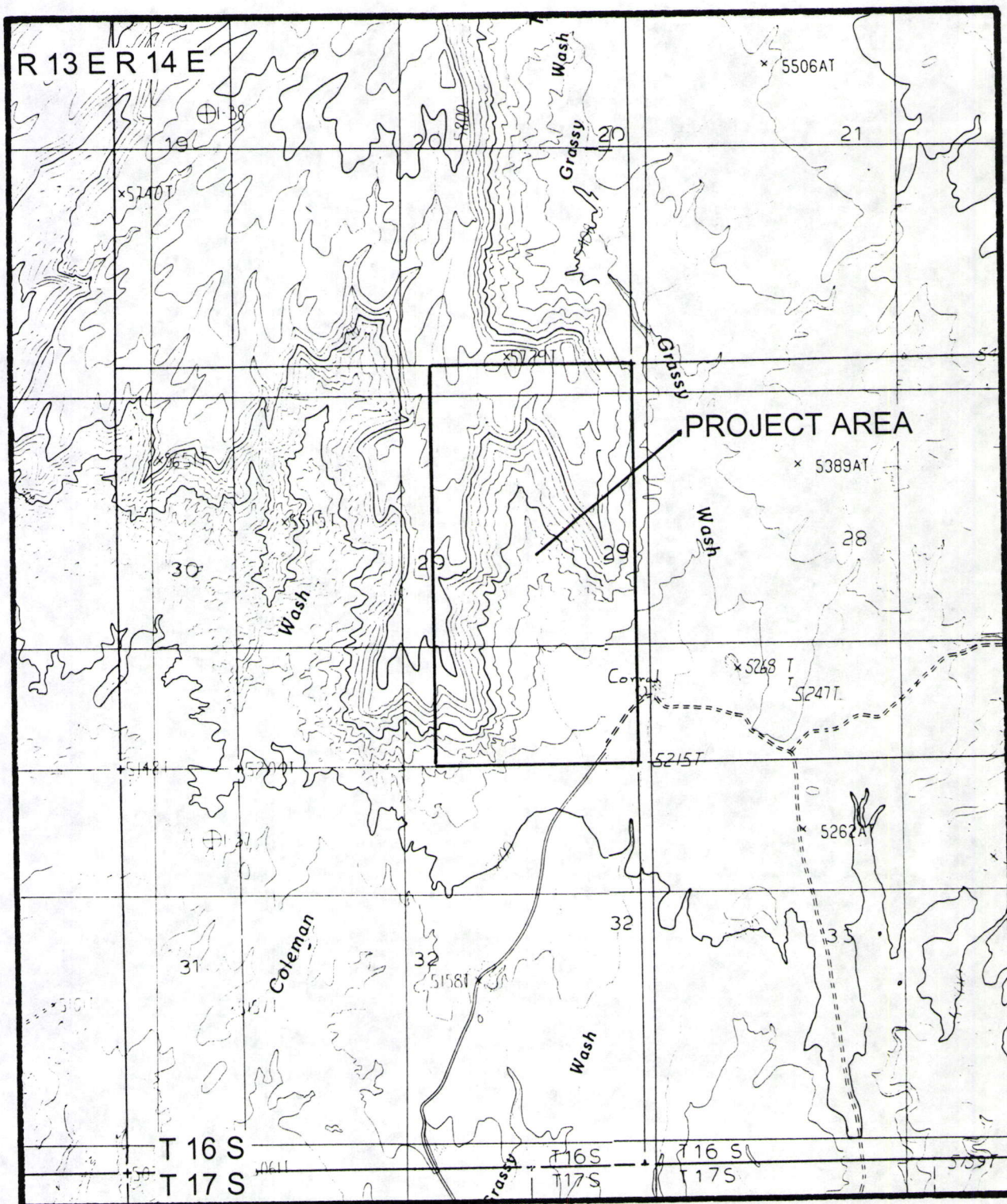


Figure 1. Inventory Area of Blue Castle Mine Site (320 Acres), Emery County, UT. USGS 7.5' Cedar, UT 1985 and Lila Point, UT 1985. Scale 1:24000.